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United Nations system support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report provides an overview of activities undertaken by the United Nations system in support of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) since June 2015. It is organized around the nine clusters established under the Regional Coordination Mechanism of the United Nations entities working in Africa.

During the review period, the United Nations system continued to strengthen its support in respect of the implementation of the NEPAD and African Union strategic plans for the period 2014-2017, notably in the context of the Year of Women's Empowerment and Development towards the African Union's Agenda 2063 and the African Year of Human Rights with a Particular Focus on the Rights of Women. The United Nations system supported the African Union and its subregional institutions in the context of the third International Conference on Financing for Development, the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

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The report underlines the need for United Nations entities to enhance coordination and coherence in supporting the development of Africa following the adoption in 2015 of such global and regional development frameworks as the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the 2030 Agenda, the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework on Climate Change and the African Union's Agenda 2063 and its first 10-year implementation plan. The convergence of the global and regional goals calls for more support in mobilizing resources, improved synergies and coordination in the implementation of all development frameworks in Africa.

I. Introduction

1. At its forty-fifth session, the Committee for Programme and Coordination recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to report to the Committee at its forty-sixth session, and annually thereafter, on the support provided by the United Nations system to the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) (see A/60/16, para. 237). The recommendation was endorsed by the Assembly in its resolution 70/8.

II. Support for the implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development

2. The present report highlights activities implemented by the United Nations system in support of NEPAD since June 2015, organized around nine thematic clusters corresponding to the priorities of NEPAD and co-chaired by United Nations entities and the African Union Commission. It was prepared on the basis of inputs received from the funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system and the departments of the Secretariat on key activities, programmes and projects implemented in the period 2015-2016. In the request for inputs, the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa emphasized the recommendations by the Committee for Programme and Coordination to highlight impact in both qualitative and quantitative terms, activities undertaken regarding the protection of women and children from sexual violence and activities aimed at combating new challenges relating to governance, young people, violent extremism and human trafficking.

A. Infrastructure development

3. The infrastructure cluster co-coordinated by the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) comprises four subclusters: energy, information and communications technology, transport, and water and sanitation.

4. Through the implementation of the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa, the Presidential Infrastructure Champion Initiative and the Dakar Agenda for Action, cluster members continued to support infrastructure development, a key pillar of NEPAD and the African Union's Agenda 2063. Seven United Nations entities implemented some 114 activities.

5. To support the implementation of the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa, the World Bank has invested over $1.25 billion to date in national and regional energy, transport, information and communications technology (ICT), and water projects. ECA collaborated with the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency and the African Union Commission in developing the monitoring and evaluation framework of the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa and the African Infrastructure Database, with a view to creating the African Infrastructure Network.

6. To advance the Dakar Agenda for Action, ECA produced a study on enhancing domestic resource mobilization for transboundary infrastructure projects, covering the 16 projects and key data relevant to potential investors. ECA and the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency conducted field consultations with the Economic

Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) and the Abidjan-Lagos Corridor to assess the progress and challenges in the development of the transboundary projects within the regional economic communities. These consultations contributed to the development of a regional model law promoting private sector participation in transboundary projects.

7. In the energy sector, cluster members supported the Africa Power Vision and the African Clean Energy Corridor initiative to increase energy access across Africa. The International Finance Corporation has developed a number of vehicles to attract institutional investors to projects focused on renewable energy. To increase investments in energy efficiency for sustainable development and climate change mitigation, ECA provided training on the preparation and financing of energy efficiency projects and produced case study reports on best cases of regulatory and institutional frameworks for energy efficiency investments in the period 2013-2015. Through the initiative, many investors and local commercial banks gained awareness of the importance of financing energy efficiency in Africa.

8. The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) supported Côte d'Ivoire in designing and implementing seven pilot mini-grids using solar energy, totalling over 200 kW of capacity and servicing approximately 4,000 households and small businesses in addition to reducing carbon dioxide emissions by 500 to 3,580 tons a year.

9. In 2015, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) supported Kenya and Nigeria in the preparation of their plans for energy security and sustainable development through the Integrated Nuclear Infrastructure Review. In addition, IAEA implemented 35 integrated nuclear security support plans, conducted integrated nuclear security support plan review meetings in 10 African countries and provided training to over 500 individuals to enhance capability in nuclear security.

10. In the information and communications technology sector, the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) continued to harmonize regional and subregional ICT policies and regulatory frameworks. Model laws and policies were updated in line with the current technology environment in African subregions. This enhanced the environment for public-private investment in ICT infrastructure.

11. In the transport sector, the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) increased assistance and capacity-building activities in respect of 38 African countries, implementing effective aviation security programmes in 2015. As at March 2016, ICAO plans of action had been implemented in 32 African countries, assisting them in reducing the rate of aircraft accidents and thereby improving aviation safety capability.

12. In the water sector, IAEA continued to address the water challenges faced by African countries through the application of nuclear and isotopic techniques. A total of 11 new national projects and 3 regional projects were initiated in 2016 to enhance water resource management capacity in Africa. In the Niger, IAEA supported the development of national capacities in geochemistry and isotope hydrology. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) facilitated a policy dialogue on institutional and legal arrangements among Malawi, Mozambique and the United Republic of Tanzania to strengthen regional capacity and awareness on mountain ecosystem law and governance. The dialogue improved cooperation on transboundary issues related to Lake Malawi.

B. Governance

13. The governance cluster, co-coordinated by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), comprises four subclusters: democracy and governance, economic and corporate governance, human rights, and public service and administration.

14. During the review period, cluster members advanced the governance and democracy agenda by supporting the African Peer Review Mechanism. As a result, the Mechanism peer reviewed its eighteenth country (out of 35 member countries), and the secretariat of the Mechanism is in the process of aligning its administrative measures and policies with those of the African Union Commission, with a view to positioning itself as the monitoring tool for Agenda 2063. A total of 31 activities conducted by six United Nations entities are highlighted.

15. On democracy and governance, ECA supported regional economic communities and African Peer Review Mechanism countries in accelerating the peer review process. In December 2015, ECA organized a workshop on peer learning and sharing experiences for the East African region. A number of recommendations were highlighted to encourage accession to the Peer Review Mechanism. At the country level, Chad, Djibouti and Senegal benefited from assistance from ECA, which led to Djibouti being peer reviewed by the African Peer Review Forum in January 2016.

16. The United Nations Democracy Fund funded 15 projects implemented by local civil society organizations. The projects focused on the engagement of young people and women through training for journalists, political participation and human rights activities. In Rwanda, the Democracy Fund funded a project promoting democratic and human rights values among young people, and in Zimbabwe, it funded a project focused on electoral process training for civil society.

17. The Department of Political Affairs of the Secretariat continued its mediation in the Central African Republic by facilitating coordination, keeping the parties engaged and providing guidance. This led to the holding of successful presidential elections on 14 February 2016 and legislative elections on 31 March 2016.

18. The Department of Political Affairs also continued to work as part of the Joint International Facilitation Team, which included the East African Community, the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region and the African Union, to facilitate dialogue between the Government and the opposition forces in Burundi. In July 2015, the Department held consultations to reiterate the need for dialogue as a catalyst for the holding of credible and peaceful elections in Burundi. The Department also extended United Nations support to the high-level facilitator of the East African Community on Burundi.

19. The Department of Political Affairs continued to support the African Union in combating illicit drug trafficking, organized crime and drug abuse in West Africa. At the meeting of the West Africa Coast Initiative high-level policy committee heid in Bissau in November 2015, the Department galvanized support and commitments to fight transnational organized crime in Guinea-Bissau and facilitated the agreement on new strategic orientations for the extension of the West Africa Coast Initiative programme in the subregion until 2017.

20. On economic and corporate governance, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) supported the formulation and implementation

of competition law and policy. In Zimbabwe, UNCTAD strengthened competition law enforcement through workshops and the operationalization, in March 2016, of an online complaint filing system to address anti-competitive business practices. UNCTAD continued to enhance the investment environment through its investment policy review programme. It published the investment policy review for Madagascar and started preparing the review for the Gambia. UNCTAD assisted the Republic of the Congo and the Sudan in the implementation of their investment policy review recommendations.

21. On human rights, the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the African Union supported the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights in reflecting aspects of the right to nationality and the eradication of statelessness in Africa in its draft Protocol. The Protocol was adopted at the eighteenth extraordinary session of the Commission, held in Nairobi in August 2015.

22. On public administration, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat supported Togo in formulating a reform programme. The Department organized a conference on the theme "Support to developing capacities for effective governance, public administration and service delivery in developing countries for sustainable development", which was held in August 2015. The conference helped to raise awareness regarding the transition from the Millennium Development Goals to the Sustainable Development Goals, with a particular focus on governmental, public administration and human resource capacity needs.

C. Peace and security

23. The peace and security cluster, co-chaired by the United Nations Office to the African Union, on behalf of the Department of Political Affairs, comprises four subclusters: the African Peace and Security Architecture, post-conflict reconstruction and development, emergency preparedness and response, and transitional justice.

24. Over the review period, cluster members advanced the peace and security agenda, as highlighted by the 72 activities implemented by six United Nations entities.

25. The Department of Political Affairs continued to support ECOWAS and the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) in implementing the outcomes of the Summit of Heads of State and Government on Maritime Safety and Security, held in Yaoundé in 2013. In September 2015, the Department chaired a forum on security in the Gulf of Guinea in Abuja, which advocated for the full operationalization of the Interregional Coordination Centre for Maritime Safety and Security in the Gulf of Guinea. As a result, the Centre adopted recommendations on the recruitment of personnel, the budget and the programme of activities in February 2016. The Office of Legal Affairs of the Secretariat continued to build the capacity and enhance the knowledge of legislators and officials of Somalia on the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, which sets out the rights and duties of States in respect of suppressing piracy and other threats to marine security.

26. The Department of Political Affairs continued to support the Mano River Union countries, namely, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, in the

implementation of the cross-border security strategy. The United Nations Peacebuilding Fund supported the establishment of joint border security and confidence-building units along the borders of the Mano River Union countries, raising the number to 15 multinational border units and 7 national border units. The Department of Political Affairs and the Mano River Union developed a joint workplan in February 2016 to strengthen the joint border security and confidence-building units and facilitate the sharing of best practices among national electoral management bodies.

27. In November 2015, the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, the African Union Commission and the African Development Bank co-organized a high-level meeting on the theme "Tackling the socioeconomic root causes of conflict towards achieving the goal of a conflict-free Africa in the context of the implementation of Africa's transformative Agenda 2063 and the global 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", which was held in Cairo. The participants made recommendations on the socioeconomic and developmental measures needed to accompany military responses, with a view to resolving conflict in areas facing violent extremism and terrorism, and on how to leverage NEPAD in addressing the underlying socioeconomic and development fragilities.

28. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) implemented peacebuilding, education and advocacy programmes totalling $27.6 million in 11 countries, which highlighted the exclusion of adolescents and young people as a major root cause of conflict, along with poverty, inequality and weak social services. UNICEF implemented various conflict-sensitive and peacebuilding interventions engaging adolescents and young people in peacebuilding, including life skills training, in Sierra Leone, South Sudan and Dadaab refugee camp; community-based volunteer activities in Liberia and Sierra Leone; and participatory research in Burundi, Côte d'Ivoire, Kenya, South Sudan and Uganda.

29. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict continued global advocacy and engagement with parties to conflict to enhance the protection of children affected by armed conflict in the eight African countries included in the children and armed conflict agenda.[1] In South Sudan, the Sudan People's Liberation Army in Opposition signed an action plan with the United Nations in December 2015 to stop the recruitment and use of children. The Special Representative also advocated for the inclusion of child protection in the peace agreement signed by the parties to the conflict in South Sudan in August 2015 and in the implementation of the peace agreement in Mali.

30. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) reinforced the protection of women and children from sexual violence through support for criminal justice responses to violence against women and juvenile justice. In Egypt, in cooperation with the Prosecutor General's Office, UNODC developed training and procedural manuals on the appropriate handling of such cases. In Chad, the Office provided legal advisory services and policy advice on justice for children and violence against children. In Nigeria, UNODC, jointly with UNICEF, has been supporting the implementation of the recently adopted legislation on juvenile justice. In Southern Africa, UNODC established a one-stop centre and gender-based-violence hotline in Namibia in 2015.

[1] The Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Libya, Mali, Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan, and the Sudan.

31. The Department of Political Affairs continued to strengthen bilateral, subregional and international cooperation to combat threats of terrorism and violent extremism arising from the activities of Boko Haram. In February 2016, the Department conducted missions in Cameroon, Chad and Nigeria to assess the impact of the violence and encourage national authorities to hold the planned ECCAS-ECOWAS summit on Boko Haram. The summit will initiate the development of a regional strategy/response to address the threat of Boko Haram.

32. The Department of Political Affairs provided support for the integrated implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in Burkina Faso, Mali and Nigeria. The Department facilitated the development of regional counter-terrorism strategies in Central and Southern Africa, which were adopted in 2015, in close cooperation with the African Union Centre for Studies and Research on Terrorism, ECCAS, SADC and the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate. The strategies will enable coordinated and sustained efforts to prevent and counter the spread of terrorist activities in both regions. Support for capacity-building in the area of cross- border cooperation on border security was provided to countries in the Sahel region and the Horn of Africa. Efforts focused on respecting human rights while countering terrorism and preventing and countering violent extremism, kidnapping for ransom and terrorist financing.

33. On emergency preparedness and response, following the adoption of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, the United Nations Inter-Agency Secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction has been strengthening the implementation of the Framework in Africa; this led to the adoption of the Yaoundé Declaration on the Implementation of the Sendai Framework in Africa in 2015, which lays the foundation for a road map for the implementation of the Framework.

34. The United Nations Inter-Agency Secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction coordinated the monitoring of national progress on disaster risk reduction through periodic reports on the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action, covering 33 African countries for the 2013-2015 cycle. The Inter-Agency Secretariat has also been working with African countries to integrate risk profiling into programmes and make all development financing risk-informed. Burkina Faso, the Comoros, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritius, the Niger, Senegal, Seychelles, Togo and the United Republic of Tanzania have completed hybrid and probabilistic risk profiles. As a result, Governments have gained the capacity for analytical assessment of catastrophic risk.

D. Agriculture, food security and rural development

35. The agriculture, food security and rural development cluster is co-coordinated by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). The cluster helped to enhance the implementation of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme, in line with the Maputo Declaration. Highlights include the implementation of 173 activities by nine United Nations entities.

36. World Bank lending for agriculture for the period under review amounted to some $1.1 billion in support of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme. The World Bank supported the implementation of the Programme through the $65.2 million Multi-Donor Trust Fund, which ended in December 2015.

Preparations for a new Multi-Donor Trust Fund to support the implementation of the Malabo Declaration are under way. The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) continued to mainstream agricultural risk management into the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme agricultural investment plans of Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Liberia, Mozambique, the Niger, Senegal and Uganda. In 2015, IFAD conducted risk management and assessment activities as well as capacity-building activities on agricultural risk management in those countries. This helped to support sustainable agricultural growth and food security. Following a survey conducted in November 2015, FAO supported the improvement of access to finance for women in agribusiness, in an effort to better the plight of women in agriculture.

37. UNCTAD supported Ethiopia in preparing a national strategy on green exports and in convening the first national stakeholder workshop on Ethiopia's National Green Export Review in Addis Ababa in December 2015. The strategy contributed to boosting Ethiopia's exports in green sectors and products with comparative advantage. The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) produced a film charting the establishment of a geographical indication process in East Africa that showcases the successful use of the intellectual property system by local businesses.

38. To empower smallholders, the Common Fund for Commodities supported the Tolaro Global factory expansion in Benin, which enhanced the production of quality cashew nuts in a socially responsible environment. The Fund supported East Africa Limited, a one-stop integrated service provider for smallholder outgrowers, which contributed to an increase in the export of paprika from Malawi to South African and European buyers. The Fund also supported a project on scaling up smallholder-based premium coffee production in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda, as a result of which exports are expected to increase from $0.4 million to $12 million in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and from $4 million to $7 million in Rwanda between 2015 and 2021.

39. On food security, the World Food Programme (WFP) continued to inform nutrition policies through the initiative "Cost of Hunger in Africa Study". The initiative estimates the social and economic cost of undernutrition, advocates for increased investment by Governments in nutrition and provides evidence-based guidance on nutrition policies and strategies. In 2015, studies were concluded in Burkina Faso, Chad, Ghana, Madagascar and Malawi. IAEA implemented 120 national and 6 regional projects to help African countries to achieve food security and reduce poverty through the improvement of agricultural productivity, the creation of tsetse-free zones, combating desertification, preventing transboundary animal disease and improving crop and livestock production in the region.

40. In line with the Malabo Declaration on reducing post-harvest losses by 50 per cent by 2025, UNIDO implemented a $1 million project to increase food security for targeted regions of South Sudan. To date, the project has led to the procurement of post-harvest reduction fishing equipment; the development of fish markets in two communities as well as a small-scale business development centre; and the development of a capacity-building programme to ensure the sustainability of the fishery sector.

41. To further rural development, FAO has been supporting rural institutions in 24 African countries by strengthening performance, governance and gender equality in producers' organizations. It also enhanced livelihoods through the development

of small-scale businesses, improved access to markets, services and finance and improved direct participation in policymaking. FAO supported the scaling-up of innovative approaches to improve access to rural agricultural finance for smallholder farmers and small and medium agro-enterprises under its Inclusive Finance for Rural Development initiative, including a programme on the development of financial products and services for smallholders in Zimbabwe.

E. Industry, trade and market access

42. The industry, trade and market access cluster, co-chaired by UNIDO, supported African regional and subregional organizations in building productive capacity for trade, market access and continent-wide sustainable industrialization.

43. Over the review period, nine United Nations entities conducted some 69 activities in support of the implementation of the Continental Free Trade Area through the strengthening of productive capacity, the facilitation of trade negotiations and the enhancement of market access.

44. UNIDO collaborated with the African Union Commission in planning the third African Union Commission Strategic Stakeholders' Retreat on the African Union Action Plan for the Accelerated Industrial Development of Africa, held in Nairobi in October 2015. The retreat enhanced coherence and cooperation within the framework of the action plan and other continental industrial development initiatives.

45. In September 2015, on the margin of the General Assembly, the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, UNIDO, ECA and the African Union co-organized a high-level event on the theme "Operationalization of the post-2015 development agenda for African industrialization", which brought together several African Heads of State and Government. The participants adopted a communiqué, which renewed political commitment to the implementation of Africa's development priorities in the area of inclusive and sustainable industrial development and urged the African Union to call for an African Industrialization Decade.

46. To promote sustainable economic growth through innovation and technology, WIPO organized expert missions to Algeria and Tunisia with a view to enhancing and modernizing their Industrial Property Automation System to support their intellectual property offices. WIPO also organized the Arab Regional Meeting on the Industrial Property Administration System, in cooperation with the Egyptian Patent Office, which was held in Cairo in August 2015.

47. The International Trade Centre (ITC) supported the development of sustainable South-South business relationships in the cotton sector through policy-level work with African regional economic communities. Three national cotton-to-clothing strategies were developed, in Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire and Zimbabwe.

48. On trade, ITC promoted the participation of small and medium-sized enterprises in regional and international value chains in selected agro-food sectors, which contributed to inclusive and sustainable trade-led growth in Kenya, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia, by improving the competitiveness of small and medium-sized producers and strengthening trade and investment support institutions in the three countries. Kenya mango exporters signed business transactions for exports of more than $1.1 million. In the United Republic of

Tanzania, at least 30 enterprises became export-ready. In Zambia, branding support for Zambian honey to increase value addition was provided to nine small and medium-sized enterprises. A total of 26 International Organization for Standardization packaging standards and one technical specification were approved as Zambian standards.

49. UNCTAD supported the mainstreaming of trade into national development strategies through the Enhanced Integrated Framework by updating the Diagnostic Trade Integration Study in the Niger and Ethiopia. In the Comoros, the Enhanced Integrated Framework increased the competitiveness of the three main export products, including cloves, vanilla and ylang-ylang, by organizing the producers and processors into cooperatives. In the Gambia, it developed the cashew, sesame and groundnut sectors by supporting the country's quality assurance framework in the three sectors. In Rwanda, the Enhanced Integrated Framework supported the growth of small and medium-sized enterprises in six export-oriented clusters, namely, pineapples, bananas, vegetables, honey, flour and nuts.

50. ECA coordinated the engagement of the United Nations system in the launch of the Continental Free Trade Area negotiations, including in the preparation of the draft negotiation texts. Specific activities included participation in the Continental Free Trade Area Task Force and continued technical support to the African Union Commission. UNCTAD also supported African countries in the Continental Free Trade Area negotiations and has been working with COMESA, the East African Community, ECOWAS, the Southern Africa Customs Union and SADC to strengthen regional economic integration in the area of regulations affecting trade. The Continental Free Trade Area negotiations were officially launched in June 2015.

51. The World Trade Organization (WTO) continued to provide technical assistance to African countries through its various technical assistance initiatives, including increased secretariat support as they prepared their common position in the run-up to the tenth WTO Ministerial Conference and during the Conference itself, which was held in Nairobi in December 2015.

52. Under the Aid for Trade initiative, WTO and ECA supported Africa's contribution to the fifth global review of the initiative, held in June 2015. Both institutions facilitated Africa s contribution to the review through preparatory activities, including the launch of a report on reducing trade costs to support Africa's transformation.

53. UNCTAD, through its Automated System for Customs Data programme, helped to increase the revenue collected by Customs by more than 25 per cent and to reduce clearing times and costs. A total of 29 African countries benefited from the programme in 2015. The Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States commissioned a study for the Africa region on improving transit cooperation, trade and trade facilitation for the benefit of the landlocked developing countries in order to review the key achievements and constraints in transition issues and make policy recommendations to ensure the successful participation of African landlocked developing countries in international trade.

54. On market access, UNCTAD provided training on non-tariff measures for the tripartite regional economic communities. Through data collection, it strengthened transparency on non-tariff measures and supported policymakers in 12 countries in

addressing trade obstacles. UNCTAD started a project addressing non-tariff measures in ECOWAS in order to strengthen regional integration. In November 2015, the Standards and Trade Development Facility published a report on ways to improve the implementation of sanitary and phytosanitary controls in Malawi, South Africa and Zambia, while ensuring safe trade, low transaction costs and health protection.

F. Environment, population and urbanization

55. The cluster on environment, population and urbanization, co-coordinated by UNEP, continued to address challenges relating to environmental degradation, population growth and migration, rapid urbanization and the lack of demographic statistics.

56. Cluster members supported the implementation of the NEPAD Action Plan for the Environment, advocacy for Africa's position on climate change, the promotion of the demographic dividend and the advancement of urbanization. Highlights include 47 activities implemented by 13 United Nations entities.

57. As the secretariat of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, UNEP continued to support the Ministerial Conference in promoting regional cooperation on addressing environmental issues confronting the region and worked with partners to support the implementation of the decisions of the Ministerial Conference. UNEP continued to support the African Union in the finalization of the African strategy on combating illegal trade in African wild fauna and flora, which was endorsed by the African Union Summit in June 2015.

58. UNEP also established a small-scale funding agreement of $50,000, which enabled the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency to assess the regional flagship programmes. In December 2015, UNEP and the Planning and Coordinating Agency co-organized a side event on regional flagship programmes at the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The secretariat of the Convention prepared a methodological guiding tool to support African countries in integrating land use measures into their intended nationally determined contributions and provided inputs to regional forums on such contributions held in Addis Ababa and Niamey.

59. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs and ECOWAS co-organized a workshop on environment statistics in support of the implementation of the Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics, held in Lomé in October 2015. The World Meteorological Organization has been improving the understanding of gender-specific needs in the provision, access and use of weather and climate services for resilience-building.

60. With the support of ICAO and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the first aviation-related Clean Development Mechanism was adopted in November 2015. The methodology quantifies carbon dioxide reductions resulting from the use of electric aircraft taxiing systems and allows for the creation of saleable credits in developing countries that can be purchased by industrialized countries to meet their carbon dioxide emission reduction targets.

61. To strengthen sustainable land and water management, the World Bank continued to support the Great Green Wall Initiative in building resilience through

innovation, communication and knowledge services. The World Bank also managed the multi-donor TerrAfrica Leveraging Fund, which is supporting the secretariat of TerrAfrica through a grant, in the amount of $2.0 million, up to the end of May 2017. This assistance has contributed to a more efficient and effective response to country demand for sustainable land and water management. With a grant of $0.1 million, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification financed pilot projects on land degradation neutrality in five countries, with a focus on testing and fine-tuning a methodological approach to the implementation of land degradation neutrality.

62. On population, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) collaborated with the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning in supporting national demographic dividend analyses in Botswana, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia. In each country, UNFPA provided technical and fiscal support to model the prospects for a demographic transition and a demographic dividend, with the aim of furthering the achievement of the goals of the International Conference on Population and Development. UNFPA also collaborated with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology to host its first global hackathon in Uganda. Partners from 17 countries generated mobile health prototypes to promote adolescent sexual and reproductive health, such as the "GetIn" mobile application, which can be used by community health workers to map households where pregnant girls reside.

63. In November 2015, the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa joined the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the African Union Commission and the African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes in organizing a high-level meeting on the theme "Conflict-induced migration in Africa: Maximizing new opportunities to address its peace, security and inclusive development dimensions". Participants explored strategies to prevent and address the root causes of forced migration within the context of the various African and global agendas and raised awareness on the causes and patterns of conflict-induced or forced migration and on the consequences for inclusive and sustainable development in Africa.

64. The World Tourism Organization, UNDP and the World Bank promoted the tourism industry as a catalyst for sustainable economic and social development in Africa through the financing of projects on the development of tourism management master plans as well as projects developed under the Sustainable Tourism — Eliminating Poverty Initiative.

65. On urbanization, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) provided financial and technical support for the development of land indicators to complement the post-2015 development agenda. UN-Habitat supported Kenya, Nigeria, Uganda and Zambia in their ongoing land reforms. It collaborated on capacity development activities with the Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development and other partners through the holding of learning events on innovative concepts and tools in land administration in Botswana, Burundi, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Sudan, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania.

G. Social and human development

66. The cluster on social and human development, co-coordinated by the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), provided support through the six subclusters: health, HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis and other infectious diseases; education and human resources; gender and development; social welfare and human trafficking; labour and employment; and sport and culture.

67. Cluster members strengthened health-care systems, supported countries affected by Ebola, assisted the implementation of the African Union road map on shared responsibility and global solidarity for the AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria response, supported social protection, skills development and job creation, and addressed human trafficking. A total of 14 United Nations entities implemented some 151 activities.

68. Through the H4+ Partnership, UNFPA, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), UNICEF, UN-Women, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Bank jointly contributed to the strengthening of national health-care systems, including through the implementation of the components of national health plans that relate to reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health. H4+ contributed to the training of approximately 10,300 health-care workers and helped to strengthen the capacity of 33 training institutions, including midwifery schools, in 10 countries. In each country, it was clearly demonstrated that the integration of reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health-care services into national health plans yielded better health outcomes. IAEA implemented over 100 national and regional projects in 2015 to improve and increase access to health-care services, in particular by strengthening radiotherapy services, training specialists and procuring equipment and expert services.

69. UNAIDS supported AIDS Watch Africa in reporting to the African Union Summit on the implementation of the African Union road map on shared responsibility and global solidarity for the AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria response and on the implementation of the commitments on health contained in the Abuja Declaration on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Other Related Infectious Diseases. As a result, African countries extended the road map until 2020 and called for a "catalytic framework" to detail milestones for ending AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria in Africa by 2030. In addition, UNAIDS mobilized $7.5 million in 2015 from the United States President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief to provide technical support to more than 85 per cent of the countries in Africa that had submitted concept notes to the Global Fund for grants to address AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria. This resulted in the allocation of more than $3 billion in grants.

70. Throughout 2015, UNICEF improved evidence-based programming in adolescent HIV prevention in 11 countries through rapid assessments carried out under the All In initiative to boost access to and uptake of services by adolescents. This resulted in improved epidemiological and programme data analysis, enabling Governments to collate, review and validate data on adolescents, HIV and cross-cutting issues. Efforts to support the demonstration phase of the introduction of the human papilloma virus vaccine for adolescent girls resulted in the completion by Ghana, the Gambia and Senegal of the adolescent health assessment and the

prioritization of adolescent health interventions to be integrated with the introduction of the vaccine in 2016.

71. The World Bank assisted Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone in preparing economic recovery and growth strategies and realigned its programmes to match recovery priorities, including the restoration and build-up of the health sectors, increased focus on quick-impact strategic investments in agriculture and the provision of critical infrastructure, including electricity, roads, water and sanitation. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) provided $309 million in expedited assistance at zero interest rates to the three countries, as well as $95 million in grants for debt relief in 2015 to ease pressures on their balance of payments. UNICEF supported some 13,900 orphaned children and provided mental health and psychosocial support services to more than 315,500 children in the three countries. IAEA strengthened the early detection of dangerous emerging zoonotic diseases, including the Ebola virus disease in wildlife and livestock, under appropriate biosafety conditions.

72. As part of efforts to combat harmful practices against children, UNICEF supported the African Union Campaign to End Child Marriage and worked closely with the African Union Commission to celebrate the Day of the African Child across Africa. The theme for the Day of the African Child in 2015 was "25 years after the adoption of the African Children's Charter: Accelerating our collective efforts to end child marriage in Africa". The celebration raised awareness of children's issues.

73. In response to the global migration challenge, in August 2015, UNODC launched a dedicated regional strategy for West Africa for the period 2015-2020 to combat trafficking in persons and the smuggling of migrants. UNODC enhanced the capacity of national task forces, committees and border officials to detect and respond to trafficking cases in Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia. It also built the capacity of trainers on threats related to human trafficking in Guinea-Bissau. UNODC further supported the drafting of legislation on the trafficking of persons, in Djibouti and Ethiopia. This led Ethiopia to adopt its legislation in July 2015.

74. UNICEF and UNHCR implemented a regional information-sharing protocol for cross-border tracking and family tracing systems as part of a broader response to support unaccompanied and separated children from South Sudan and Burundi, which has resulted in faster and better matching of unaccompanied and separated children with their families/caregivers.

75. On social protection and labour, FAO enhanced the coherence between agriculture and social protection interventions, focusing on Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe, by building strong partnerships through the Agriculture and Social Protection in Africa technical reference group.

76. In Senegal, UNIDO promoted youth-led micro, small and medium-sized enterprises through support to the Government in managing youth entrepreneurship and employability initiatives. UNIDO trained 66 staff and professors in supporting young people in seeking employment in companies. It installed six platforms for technical support services in selected regions and formalized 120 entrepreneurial initiatives, leading to the creation of more than 350 jobs. UNIDO also implemented a $1.4 million project in Liberia to promote youth employment in the mining, construction and agricultural sectors. To date, 148 diesel technicians and 84 machine operators have been trained under the project.

77. The International Labour Organization (ILO) has been actively involved in the development and implementation of the first five-year priority programme on employment, poverty eradication and inclusive development (2015-2019) of the Ouagadougou+10 Declarations and Plan of Action. ILO has been contributing to four key priority areas, namely, labour migration, labour market governance, social protection, and youth and women's employment.

H. Science and technology

78. The science and technology cluster, co-coordinated by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), supported the implementation of Africa's Science and Technology Consolidated Plan of Action, which is built on three pillars, namely, capacity-building, knowledge production and technological innovation. Highlights include 10 activities conducted by five United Nations entities in support of the Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa 2024.

79. The World Bank supported the African Union Commission and Africa's Science and Technology Consolidated Plan of Action, notably with respect to the goals of addressing the data gap that currently exists across the continent, rebalancing post-secondary education towards the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics and closing the gender gap in those fields.

80. In collaboration with the African Union and Senegal, WIPO organized the African Ministerial Conference 2015: Intellectual Property for an Emerging Africa, held in Dakar in November 2015. The Conference highlighted the crucial role that the intellectual property system could play in Africa's economic transformation in the context of Agenda 2063 and the Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa 2024. Through its technology and innovation support centres, WIPO facilitated access to and the exploitation of technological information for Djibouti and Mauritania in December 2015.

81. UNAIDS contributed to advocacy efforts at the WTO Council for Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) to have the TRIPS waiver on pharmaceuticals for the least developed countries extended until 2033. The resulting agreement allows the least developed countries greater access to affordable essential medicines and paves the way for the establishment of local pharmaceutical capacities in Africa.

82. ITU, under the "Connect a School, Connect a Community" initiative, continued to improve ICT access in rural schools in the Gambia, Lesotho, the Niger, Sierra Leone and the United Republic of Tanzania. A total of 71 sites were equipped with ICT material and delivered courses for children and teachers, thereby contributing to the socioeconomic development of rural communities.

I. Communication, advocacy and outreach

83. The advocacy and communications cluster, co-chaired by the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, continued to undertake advocacy and outreach for NEPAD. Following the adoption by the African Union Summit of Agenda 2063 and its first 10-year implementation plan, the cluster worked to popularize the priorities

of the new Agenda and mobilize United Nations system support for its implementation.

84. Five United Nations entities conducted 21 activities. The Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, along with cluster members, advocated for NEPAD and the implementation of Agenda 2063 and its first 10-year implementation plan in conjunction with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Office strengthened coordination and coherence through partnerships with United Nations entities in joint activities and through the preparation of reports in collaboration with the Interdepartmental Task Force on African Affairs. In July 2015, at the margins of the third International Conference on Financing for Development, the Office, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the African Union Commission, the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency, ECA and the United Nations Global Compact, co-organized a high-level side event, at which the participants made policy recommendations aimed at leveraging pension funds for the financing of Africa's infrastructure development. To raise awareness on financing infrastructure development, the Office prepared a study on leveraging such funds to finance infrastructure development in Africa.

85. The Department of Public Information of the Secretariat continued to promote public awareness of the aims and achievements of the NEPAD projects and programmes through the printed and online versions of *Africa Renewal* magazine, the United Nations News Centre, United Nations Radio and Television, the United Nations website and United Nations social media accounts. Between September 2015 and January 2016, some 26 *Africa Renewal* articles were republished, in both English and French, approximately 263 times in 133 different media outlets in 15 countries.

86. In collaboration with the Department of Public Information, ECA, the African Union Commission and the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency and its secretariat, the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa organized, from 12 to 16 October 2015 at Headquarters in New York, Africa Week 2015 on the theme "Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Moving from Aspirations to Reality". The Week comprised high-level events on the themes "Achieving regional integration through the Continental Free Trade Area", "Silencing the guns in Africa by 2020", "15 years of the women, peace and security agenda in Africa" and "Youth and development". A press conference and one-on-one interviews were organized for senior officials from NEPAD, the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, the African Union and the African Peer Review Mechanism. Overall, Africa Week contributed to the mobilization of international support for the African Union's Agenda 2063, while highlighting its synergies with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

87. The Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States provided advocacy and technical support to African landlocked developing countries to promote the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014-2024. The Office has been supporting regional and national efforts to mainstream the Vienna Programme of Action, including through the provision of substantive support to African countries in the formulation and adoption of a resolution calling for the mainstreaming of the Programme of Action in 2015.

88. UNCTAD advocated for the leveraging of trade in services as an engine of growth, employment creation and development through the launch of its *Economic Development in Africa Report 2015: Unlocking the potential of Africa's services trade for growth and development* in July 2015.

89. In September 2015, the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa and the private sector advocated for investment opportunities during the African Heads of State and Government Investment Panel. Five African Heads of State engaged with global investors on opportunities in Africa with a view to fast-tracking the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda in Africa, as well as Agenda 2063 and its 10-year implementation plan.

III. Policy issues in the implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development

A. Strengthening of the cluster system and enhanced cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union

90. During the reporting period, the United Nations system took steps towards enhancing the effectiveness and efficiency of the cluster system through the reconfiguration of the Regional Coordination Mechanism-Africa clusters and their alignment with Agenda 2063 and its first 10-year implementation plan.

91. Efforts have also been made towards ensuring the integrated implementation of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, building on the synergies and complementarities to minimize duplication of efforts and avoid unnecessary competition for resources.

92. Regarding the cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union, the United Nations system and the African Union formulated the United Nations-African Union partnership on Africa's integration and development agenda for 2017-2027, a successor programme to the Ten-Year Capacity-Building Programme for the African Union, which will expire in December 2016. The partnership on Africa's integration and development agenda for 2017-2027 is anchored on Agenda 2063 and was adopted by the African Union Summit in June 2015.

B. Support to the mobilization of financial resources for the implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development

93. The United Nations system continued to support the implementation of the African Union-NEPAD domestic resource mobilization strategy. UNDP supported the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency in developing a capacity assessment framework and a capacity-strengthening methodology on mutual accountability, with a focus on areas with strong potential for domestic resource mobilization. The assessment tool, together with an implementation plan and a country guidance note, was validated and presented by the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency for adoption by the African Union Summit of June 2015. Countries are now able to develop national action plans for concrete strengthening of their capacity to finance their own development.

94. The Office of the Special Adviser on Africa also contributed to improvements in mutual accountability and development effectiveness through the United Nations monitoring mechanism to review commitments made towards Africa's development by African countries and their development partners. The Office has launched the preparation of the second biennial report of the monitoring mechanism, which focuses on the four thematic areas of trade, infrastructure, gender and the empowerment of women, and a conflict-free Africa. Three regional stakeholders' consultative meetings were organized in 2015 to mobilize inputs from a wide spectrum of stakeholders. The report will identify gaps and challenges in the implementation of development commitments in respect of Africa, leading to the full and timely implementation of such commitments.

95. In 2015, World Bank Group lending levels continued the upward trend in assistance to Africa. International Development Association commitments to sub-Saharan Africa reached $10.4 billion, while the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development increased its lending to $1.2 billion and provided $2.4 billion in assistance to North Africa. The International Finance Corporation committed to providing $3.6 billion in new long-term financing in sub-Saharan Africa, provided advice to Governments and private investors on projects worth $47 million in 30 countries and committed to providing $142 million to North African countries. The Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency provided guarantees of $235 million to Africa.

96. In July 2015, IMF adopted a number of new initiatives to support the transition of countries to the Sustainable Development Goals by strengthening capacity-building activities in domestic resource mobilization and public spending efficiency; bolstering support to fragile and conflict-affected States; expanding support on infrastructure; focusing analysis on equity, inclusion and gender issues; and dealing with the macroeconomic challenges of climate change. IMF strengthened the financial safety net for low-income countries by increasing access to all its concessional facilities by 50 per cent. As at the end of August 2015, IMF had provided some $107 billion in debt relief to 30 eligible African countries.

C. Cross-cutting issues

97. The United Nations system continued to support the capacity development of African institutions, and the empowerment of women and young people. Thirteen United Nations entities conducted 21 activities.

98. On capacity development, UNDP organized a regional workshop, held in November 2015, to familiarize 36 African countries, representatives from civil society organizations and regional economic communities with the monitoring framework of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation. The workshop enhanced the capacity of countries to implement effective development cooperation principles in support of national development goals.

99. In 2015, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs launched a project on enhancing national statistical capacity to measure, monitor, assess and report on progress in achieving post-2015 goals and targets for sustainable development, with the initial implementation starting in Ethiopia, Rwanda and Uganda. IMF provided enhanced support to African countries in the areas of revenue mobilization, public expenditure and debt management, financial stability and the dissemination of basic data.

100. On the empowerment of women, UNFPA and the World Bank implemented the "Sahel Women's Empowerment and Demographic Dividend Project for Africa " in Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania and the Niger. The project promoted the empowerment of women and youth development and addressed gender-based violence, early pregnancies and early marriage.

101. In June 2015, UNAIDS and the African Union Commission launched a strategy on empowering young women and adolescent girls and accelerating the end of AIDS in Africa. Three political commitments contained in this strategy were reflected in the Declaration of the African Union on 2015 as the "Year of Women's Empowerment and Development towards Africa's Agenda 2063", namely, enhancing access by women to health care; upholding the sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights of African women; and ending the AIDS epidemic by 2030.

102. FAO, UN-Women, IFAD and WFP have been implementing the five-year programme "Accelerating progress towards the economic empowerment of rural women" in Ethiopia, Liberia, the Niger and Rwanda. The programme strengthened the capacity of Government institutions and other stakeholders to address the rights of women and empower women farmers to enhance their nutrition and food security.

103. In support of the African Year of Human Rights with a Particular Focus on the Rights of Women, the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the Department of Public Information and ECA co-organized a high-level meeting on the Year during the sixtieth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, in March 2016. At the meeting, recommendations were made on mainstreaming the theme into the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063.

104. On the empowerment of young people, FAO and the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency launched a four-year project aimed at creating decent employment opportunities for young people in rural areas. Through the project, NEPAD and the Agency have supported Benin, Cameroon, Malawi and the Niger in putting in place national action plans on youth employment and skills, targeting 100,000 young people in those countries.

105. In February 2016, the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa convened a session to bring the voice of African youth to the Economic and Social Council Youth Forum. The session focused on making the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development a reality while taking into account the African Union's Agenda 2063 and its first 10-year implementation plan. The young participants recommended investing in the empowerment of young people, addressing youth employment and underemployment, engaging young people in decision-making processes and making young people agents of change rather than a threat.

D. Institutional support

106. During the reporting period, ECA continued to strengthen the capacity of the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency and the secretariat of the African Peer Review Mechanism by seconding two senior advisers to provide direct technical support to both institutions. As a result, the Agency submitted a concept note on the

African continental framework on youth empowerment at the twenty-sixth African Union Summit.

107. UNICEF seconded a nutrition specialist, a child protection adviser, a campaign officer and an administrative assistant to the African Union Commission to support the African Union Campaign to End Child Marriage. It also provided a number of consultants and produced communication and advocacy materials for the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child and for the Campaign. WFP seconded a senior nutritionist to the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency to reinforce its nutrition efforts.

108. UNAIDS, together with WHO, UNIDO, UNDP, UNCTAD and UNFPA, supported the African Union Commission and the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency in convening the sixth meeting of the Technical Committee for the Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Plan for Africa, in November 2015. The Technical Committee reviewed the business plan for the implementation of the Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Plan of Africa and identified challenges and opportunities to improve access to medical products and pave the way for the strengthening of the indigenous pharmaceutical industry.

109. ILO strengthened the capacity of African Union Commission and regional economic community officials through ILO training programmes held at the Labour Migration Academy and the Academy on Social Security in Turin, Italy.

E. Challenges and constraints

110. Resource constraints remain a major challenge as far as the full implementation of the business plans of the clusters and capacity-building support is concerned, since there is no specific budget allocation for the activities of the clusters. Inter-cluster collaboration and communication remain delayed.

111. The recent adoption of Agenda 2063 and the United Nations-African Union partnership on Africa's integration and development agenda for 2017-2027 at the continental level and of the 2030 Agenda at the global level, with their respective specific priorities and goals, requires enhanced coordination structures and resources for their implementation in Africa.

IV. Conclusions and recommendations

112. The United Nations system continued to provide substantial support to the priority areas of NEPAD at both the global and regional levels, through the nine clusters of the Regional Coordination Mechanism and through the funding of programmes and projects, capacity-building and institution-building activities, policy advisory services, resource mobilization, advocacy and humanitarian assistance.

113. During the review period, the United Nations adopted key development frameworks, including the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The African Union adopted Agenda 2063 and its first 10-year implementation plan. Against this background, the United Nations system should support the enhancement of the synergies and

complementarities between the global and regional frameworks as well as the facilitation of the mainstreaming, domestication and implementation of all the development frameworks in Africa.

114. The United Nations system should support the implementation and monitoring of Agenda 2063 and its 10-year implementation plan through harmonization with subregional and regional architectures in Africa, including the regional economic communities, the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency and the secretariat of the African Peer Review Mechanism, at the strategic and operational levels. The United Nations system should support the development and implementation of domestic resource mobilization strategies to promote the implementation of Agenda 2063.

115. The United Nations system should continue to support regional integration, the fast-tracking of the Continental Free Trade Area, the implementation of the trade facilitation agreement, and projects under the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa, including the Grand Inga Dam project, the high-speed train network, the establishment of a single African air transport network and the development of a Pan-African e-network. The United Nations system should also Support the facilitation of free movement of people across Africa.

116. The United Nations system should enhance its support for the development of productive capacity in Africa, notably by assisting with the development of a commodities strategy, in order to encourage diversification, value addition and the integration of the global value chain within the framework of inclusive and sustainable industrial development.

117. Since 2016 coincides with the African Union's Year of Human Rights with a Particular Focus on the Rights of Women, the United Nations system should strengthen its coordination and enhance its support for the acceleration of the implementation of all commitments relating to gender equality, the empowerment of women and the protection of the rights of women.

118. The United Nations system should continue to develop the capacity and skills of African youth and women, with particular attention to quality education, technical and vocational training, science and technology, including the establishment of an African virtual and e-university.

119. The United Nations system should enhance its support for the implementation of all the pillars of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme, in particular in the areas of food security, rural development, climate-smart agriculture, with a view to ensuring environmental sustainability.

120. The United Nations system should strengthen its support towards addressing climate change in Africa by prioritizing adaptation, mitigation through the development of skills, technology (including outer space technology) and the provision of financial and technical resources.

121. The United Nations system should enhance its support for the promotion of governance, peace, security, stability and human rights in Africa, notably by supporting the African Peer Review Mechanism, the "Silencing the guns in Africa by 2020" initiative, eliminating all types of trafficking and protecting human rights, including those of migrants.